

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EA-06 IO-10 /079 W
----- 039681

R 061522Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1357

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 1661

PARIS FOR MELONE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP, UR, ML

SUBJECT: ANTI-FASCIST CELEBRATION INCLUDES INDO-CHINA REFERENCES

REF: BAMAKO 1343

1. DCM ATTENDED 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE DEFEAT OF FASCISM MAY 5 UNDER PATRONAGE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WHO WAS REPRESENTED BY HIS DIRECTOR OF CABINET. SPEECHES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS (SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MALI VETERANS COMMITTEE AND MALI-USSR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION) WERE APPROPRIATE TO THE OCCASION. ONLY REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE OF MALI PEACE MOVEMENT, DR. MAMADOU SACKO, CONTAINED REMARK ABOUT DEFEAT OF IMPERIALIST AND FASCIST FORCES IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA WITHOUT MENTIONING ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY BY NAME. SACKO WAS LAST PERSON TO SPEAK AND DURING INTERMISSION WHICH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED HIS REMARKS DCM WHO WAS SITTING
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WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN SECOND ROW GOT UP AND WALKED OUT

EXPLAINING TO SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER WHO APPROACHED HIM THAT HE COULD NOT STAY FOR MUSICAL PRESENTATIONS BY MALIAN AND SOVIET ARTISTS.

2. PICTURE EXHIBITION WAS VERY SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S RED ARMY DAY EXPOSITION IN THE SAME HALL AND INCLUDED PHOTO-GRAPHS OF NAZI OFFICERS SHOOTING SOVIET PRISONERS BEFORE AN OPEN MASS GRAVE AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHAMBERLAIN-HITLER NEGOTIATION WITH CAPTION THAT FRANCE AND ENGLAND AGREED TO THE DISMEMBERMENT OF EUROPE AT THE MUNICH CONFERENCE.

3. DREARY OCCASION WHICH TOOK PLACE IN SWELTERING HEAT WAS NOT WELL-ATTENDED COMPOSED MAINLY OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND SOME MALIAN REPRESENTATIVES. NOTEWORTHY THAT NEITHER MINISTER DEFENSE DOUKARA, PATRON OF THE AFFAIR, NOR FOREIGN MINISTER WERE PRESENT. DOUKARA'S DIRECTOR OF CABINET EXPLAINED THAT MINISTER HAD BEEN CALLED AWAY AT LAST MINUTE BY URGENT STATE AFFAIRS (LES AFFAIRES D'ORDRE NATIONAL). FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS REPRESENTED ON THE PODIUM BY SECRETARY GENERAL BOUBACAR KANTE WHO IS SECOND RANKING IN FOREIGN MINISTRY (AND AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE U.S.). ALIDOU TOURE, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THIRD RANKING IN MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS PRESENT BUT SAT IN THE AUDIENCE. FRANCE WAS REPRESENTED BY DCM AND DEFENSE ATTACHE AND FRG BY THEIR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OFFICER WHO IS ONLY OTHER EMBASSY OFFICER BESIDE AMBASSADOR PRESENT IN MALI AS FRG DCM WHO DEPARTED ON REASSIGNMENT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, HAS NOT YET BEEN REPLACED. (FRG, FRENCH, AND US AMBASSADORS BAMAKO HAD EARLIER DISCUSSED AND AGREED GENERALY ON APPROACH TO SOVIET ANTI-FASCIST CELEBRATIONS.)

4. COMMENT: WHEN DCM TOOK SEAT TOWARD BACK OF HALL, SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER CAME UP AND INSISTED THAT HE SIT WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN SECOND ROW. WHEN DCM LEFT HALL, ANOTHER SOVIET OFFICIAL INTERCEPTED HIM BEFORE HE GOT TO THE DOOR WHICH SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT SOVIETS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO KEEP WATCHFUL EYE ON WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE SURE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ANTI-FASCIST CEREMONY WAS CONSPICUOUS.

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